

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 02394

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: SHUM, TW
SUBJECT: YANG CHIN-HAI'S STATEOF HEALTH; PROCEDURES FOR
SOLICITING INFORMATION ON PRISONERS

REF: (A) STATE 094837, (B) TAIPEI 1005, (C) STATE 037667,
(D) TAIPEI 7489

1. WHILE THE EMBASSY HAS ALWAYS SENT WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON POLITICAL PRISONERS (USUALLY AFTER AN INITIAL ORALAPPROACH),MOFA HAS TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED ITS RESPONSE TO US IN ORAL FORM, EITHER BY TELEPHONEOR IN PERSON. MOFA RESPONSES TO POLITICAL COUNSELOR'S DEMARCHES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GIVEN IN PERSON AT A MEETING AT MOFA. IF A MOFA RESPONSE HAS NOTBEEN RECEIVED WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, THE EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWED UP ITS WRITTEN REQUEST WITH A TELEPHONED REMINDER THAT WE AREAWAITING A REPLY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROMPTNESS OFMOFA'S RESPONSE DEPENDS ON WHETHER THEY ARERESPONDING FROM THEIR OWN FILES OR MUST REQUEST INFORMATION FROM POLICE OR MILITARY SOURCES.

2. WHEN AN ORAL REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM MOFA IT HAS BEEN EMBASSY PRACTICE TO MAKEA WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE ORIGINAL INQUIRY BASED ON THE DETAILS PROVIDED. WE HAVE NOT INSISTED ON A FORMAL, WRITTEN REPLY FROM MOFA BECAUSE WEWISH TO GET ANSWERS PROMPTLY IN ORDER TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO CONGRESSIONAL OR OTHER INQUIRIES. WE RECOMMEND THATWE CONTINUETHIS
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PRACTICE. IF THERE ARE DVERRIDING REASONS FOR INSISTING ON A WRITTEN REPLY, WE SUGGEST THATWE DO SO ONLY AFTER WE HAVE FIRST PUT MOFA ON NOTICE THAT ONE IS EXPECTED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY INQUIRIES (REFTELS B AND C) FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON SUBJECT'S HEALTH, MOFA RECENTLY GAVE EMBASSY PHOTOCOPIES OF PRISONER YANG CHIN-HAI'S MEDICAL RECORDS.

THESE RECORDS SHOW A HISTORY OF CHRONIC STOMACH DISTRESS AND
RESPONSIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

4. YANG COMPLAINED OF STOMACH ACHE AND WAS EXAMINED NINE TIMES
BETWEEN JULY 20, 1976 AND FEBRUARY 25, 1977 WHILE AT THE TAIWAN
GARRISON COMMAND DETENTION HOUSE. HE WAS TREATED WITH "POLYCROL"
AND ALUMINUM HYDROXIDE. AFTER TRANSFER TO THE GREEN ISLAND
PRISON YANG WAS SEEN 26 TIMES FOR SIMILAR COMPLAINTS BETWEEN
APRIL 13 AND JULY 20, 1977. HE WAS TREATED WITH ALUMINUM
HYDROXIDE, SODIUM BICARBONATE AND VITAMINS. YANG MADE NO
COMPLAINTS BETWEEN JULY 21 AND NOVEMBER 4, 1977. DURING THE
PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 5, 1977 TO JANUARY 18, 1978 YANG WAS
SEEN 18 TIMES FOR STOMACH ACHE AND TREATED AS ABOVE. MEDICAL
RECORDS INDICATE URINALYSIS AND STOOL SAMPLES WERE NORMAL
EXCEPT THAT FECES WERE BLACK. YANG HAS BEEN ADVISED TO PAY
ATTENTION TO DIET AND EXERCISE. AT PRESENT YANG IS REPORTED
TO BE RECEIVING TREATMENT FOR HIS STOMACH CONDITION. INTER-
ESTINGLY, THE MEDICAL RECORDS ALSO NOTE THAT YANG IS
PRACTICING CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTING AND THAT BETWEEN JULY,
1977 AND JANUARY, 1978 HE MAILED 58 PAINTINGS AND 86 SHEETS
OF CALLIGRAPHY TO FAMILY MEMBERS.

5. PHOTOCOPIES ALSO INDICATE THAT YANG RECEIVED 15 VISITS
BY FAMILY MEMBERS AT THE DETENTION HOUSE FROM AUGUST, 1976
TO APRIL, 1977 AND THREE VISITS ON GREEN ISLAND FROM JULY,
1977 TO FEBRUARY, 1978.
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6. RE REF A, PARAGRAPH 4, EMBASSY WILL POUCH PHOTOCOPY OF
MATERIALS OBTAINED FROM MOFA. YANG CHIN-HAI'S RECORD
APPEARS REASONABLY COMPLETE, COVERING THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 4,
1976 TO JANUARY 18, 1978 (YANG WAS ARRESTED ON MAY 31,
1976 AND SENTENCED IN JULY). ALTHOUGH THE RECORD PROVIDED
DOES NOT COVER THE PRE-TRIAL DETENTION PERIOD, UNLESS
DEPARTMENT HAS SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION DURING
THIS PERIOD WE ARE RELUCTANT TO PRESS MOFA ON THIS MATTER.
IN THE CASE OF YANG, IT HAS ALREADY BEEN MUCH MORE FORTH-
COMING THAN HAS USUALLY BEEN THE CASE, AND WE THINK OUR
CHANCES OF SUCCESS IN ESTABLISHING A PRECEDENT WOULD BE
BETTER IF WE RESERVE OUR REQUEST FOR A FULL MEDICAL REPORT
FOR A NEW CASE, OR AT LEAST ANOTHER DESERVING CASE. UNGER

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